

Kent County Council

Job Description: *Adult Social Care Research Facilitator*

Directorate: Adult Social Care and Health

Unit/Section: Strategic Safeguarding, Practice and Quality Assurance

Grade: KR11

Responsible to: Practice Development Manager

Purpose of the Job:

This position represents an exciting opportunity for the successful applicant to join a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funded post on a new programme of work called the Kent Adult Social Care Partnership. The post-holder will work closely with social care staff and the care sector to build research capacity in adult social care. The project is one of six national social care capacity building partnerships and will contribute to the substantially growing national attention to issues around social care. The position offers the chance to be involved in research from the grass-roots and with a strong focus on implementation. There will be significant scope to be involved in exciting new research projects and contribute to culture change within social care. The project aims to:

- implement effective partnership working and co-production of research ideas within adult social care;
- support with identifying strategic research priorities across adult social care, including knowledge and training gaps for social care staff;
- build research capacity and develop a positive culture of research in practice across the adult social care workforce through a community of practice approach;
- pilot a 'Researcher in Residence' model and evaluate its relevance and sustainability in adult social care;
- develop the evidence base around locally-relevant, co-produced social care interventions;
- develop sustainable and effective models of knowledge sharing and co-production and share this with others locally, regionally and nationally.

The postholder will be employed by Kent County Council, Adult Social Care and will be co-located at the University of Kent as the delivery partner which has a highly-regarded and extensive track record in applied health and social care research. They will also have opportunities to work with national social care experts at the Personal Social Services Research Unit (This will enable the post holder to learn and develop research skills. There will also be a Researcher in Residence post employed by University of Kent and co-located at Kent County Council, Adult Social Care.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- To lead on the development and embedding a research culture within Adult Social Care by working closely with and influencing operational teams, managers and partners.
- The post holder will have specialist understanding of Social Care research and will be the professional lead on this topic for Adult Social Care.

- Working with the project team, partners and the Researcher in Residence based at the the University of Kent to ensure research goals and project objectives are achieved within the agreed timescales and budget.
- The post holder will work closely with and influence a wide range of internal and external stakeholders including relevant researchers, local authority, the care sector and organisations nationally.
- Measure the impact of building social care research capacity and develop recommendations on how a research culture can be sustained once the project ends.
- Identify research gaps and barriers in Adult Social Care and lead on implementing solutions that the allow the organisation to embed a research culture. This will include leading on the development of Communities of Practice, research training for staff, development and delivery of three research fellowships funded by the project and identifying the journals, subscriptions, research events staff would benefit from accessing.
- Lead on the involvement of public and people supported by Adult Social Care in the research and associated activities.
- Develop and implement with the the Adult Social Care Communication and Stakeholder team, engaging and informative communications to raise the profile of Social Care research, excite and engage staff and partners.

Footnote: This job description is provided to assist the job holder to know what the main duties are. It may be amended from time to time without change to the level of responsibility appropriate to the grade of post.

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Person Specification: *Adult Social Care Research Facilitator*

The following outlines the criteria for this post. Applicants who have a disability and who meet the criteria will be shortlisted.

Applicants should describe in their application how they meet these criteria.

	CRITERIA
QUALIFICATIONS	Level 5 degree, equivalent diploma, related professional qualification or relevant experience
EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience of social care• Experience of undertaking social care research projects• Experience in conducting evaluations and analysis of care and/or health interventions
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Willingness to learn new research methods and skills with support and training• Ability to work independently and as part of a team• Excellent interpersonal, presentation and communication skills• Strong data analysis skills and the ability to interpret how findings can be applied in practice• Ability to build and develop effective working relationships across a wide range of internal and external partners• Ability to prioritise, forward plan and work effectively on own initiative.• Ability to manage and deliver complex areas of work.• Ability to take complex decisions which will have a wider impact.• Ability to resolve complex problems and sensitive issues.
KNOWLEDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods and their application• Knowledge of implementation methods and their application, including roll-out and scaling-up of trial/pilot interventions• An understanding of key policies, legislation and statutory guidance, and eligibility criteria relating to provision of support to the client group, including the Care Act.• Working knowledge of legislation relating to Equal Opportunities and awareness of KCC equality and diversity policies, procedures and legislation.• Understanding of internal policy and external influence.• Compliance with information governance, data protection, record retention and confidentiality issues
BEHAVIOURS AND KENT VALUES	Kent Values: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are brave. We do the right thing, we accept and offer challenge• We are curious to innovate and improve• We are compassionate, understanding and respectful to all• We are strong together by sharing knowledge

- We are all **responsible** for the difference we make

Our values enable us to build a culture that is:

Flexible/agile - willing to take (calculated) risks and want people that are flexible and agile

Curious - constantly learning and evolving

Compassionate and Inclusive - compassionate, understanding and respectful to all

Working Together - building and delivering for the best interests of Kent

Empowering - Our people take accountability for their decisions and actions

Externally Focused - Residents, families and communities at the heart of decision making